

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1100

By Burks

A RESOLUTION to commend Joseph Vann Mullins for his honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Joseph Vann Mullins is one such estimable person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, throughout his exemplary tenure with the Tennessee Farm Bureau and other estimable farm agencies, Mr. Mullins has distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to this State; and

WHEREAS, Joseph Vann Mullins was born in Pickett County, Tennessee, in 1917, and gallantly served his country as a member of the United States Army during World War II, spending thirty-seven months overseas from 1941 to 1945; and

WHEREAS, forced from the original family farm due to the formation of Dale Hollow Lake, Mr. Mullins relocated to Putnam County to begin farming after the war; and

WHEREAS, on New Years Day 1946, Joseph Vann Mullins wed Alberta LaBrot of Patton, Missouri, and their blessed union produced two children, Joseph Charles Mullins and Judy Mullins Lollar, five grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Mullins farmed with his brother, Harlan, from 1946 until Harlan Mullins passed away; Joseph Mullins now farms with Harlan's son, Ralph, on approximately 400 acres, which includes the farmhouse Joseph built in 1950 and resides in today; and

WHEREAS, Joseph Vann Mullins has been involved in numerous farm agencies since 1946 in a variety of positions, and throughout all his endeavors, Mr. Mullins has been a person

of keen business acumen, good common sense, and irreproachable integrity, working assiduously to establish a brighter future for his fellow citizens of Putnam County; and

WHEREAS, Joseph Mullins was elected to the Putnam County Farm Bureau Board of Directors in 1951 and served as its president in 1955 and 1956; he also served as Farm Bureau president from 1970 until 1987, and he was a member of the Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation Board of Directors from 1983 until 1995; and

WHEREAS, over the course of nineteen years, Mr. Mullins served as Assistant Secretary/Treasurer, Vice-President, and Director of the Upper Cumberland EMC until retiring in 2000; he was also the president of the Putnam Farmers Co-op for more than fifteen years, beginning in the 1950s; and

WHEREAS, committed to the needs of Putnam County farmers, Joseph Mullins served as the president of the Putnam County Livestock Association and was a committee member of the Co-Rural Development Committee; he also served as the Study Committee Chairman for Tennessee Green Belt; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, Mr. Mullins received the 1996 Putnam County FFA Distinguished Service Award, the Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation District IV Distinguished Service Award in 1996, and the Farm Bureau Family of the Year Award in 1983; and

WHEREAS, Joseph Vann Mullins's remarkable success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to his reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and his uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Mullins is an active and devout member of First Baptist Church of Putnam County, which he has served faithfully for many years as a deacon and Sunday School president, receiving the Dedicated Service Award in 2002; and

WHEREAS, an extremely giving person who often reaches out with compassion to people whom life has treated unkindly, Joseph Vann Mullins epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated public servant, and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Mullins is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and he should be specially recognized for his exemplary service to the good people of Putnam County; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby commend Joseph Vann Mullins for his honorable and astute service to the citizens of Tennessee and salute his unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.